

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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PRS-01 L-03 H-02 SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2808

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBRF VIENNA

S E C R E T PARIS 20018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MBRF RF

SUBJECT: FRENCH POSITION ON MBFR

SUMMARY: DURING COURTESY CALL BY AMBASSADOR STOESSEL ON HIS OLD FRIEND DE LABOULAYE, LATTER BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF FRENCH MBFR POSITION, STATING THAT HE WAS SENDING DETAILED RESPONSE TO COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT. POINTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR STOESSEL MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT, WHICH MAY ALSO WISH THIS MESSAGE REPEATED TO OTHER ADDRESSEES.

1. FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN PARIS ON LEAVE AMBASSADOR STOESSEL, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, CALLED ON FRANCOIS DE LABOULAYE, OLD FRIEND AND DIRECTOR GENERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. DURING RELAXED AND GOSSIPY SESSION DE LABOULAYE BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF MBRF, STATING THAT HE WAS SENDING A MESSAGE WITH "HIS REPLY" TO COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT.

2. DE LABOULAYE SAID THAT AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF SUBJECT FRENCH WERE ABSOLUTELY FIRM IN THEIR PRIOR POSITION. FRANCE COULD NOT ACCEPT OR TOLERATE BEING  
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INCLUDED IN DATA SUPPLIED BY WEST OR IN FORCE LEVELS.

FRANCE WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION AND IF SUBJECTED TO "TOO MUCH PRESSURE" IT WOULD INEVITABLY BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WHICH WOULD HURT BILATERAL RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH SUCH PUBLICITY WAS TEMPTING TO GOF, DE LABOULAYE REMARKED WITH A SMILE, SINCE IT COULD ONLY HELP GOF INTERNALLY, GOF PREFERRED TO AVOID INJURY TO BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. TO AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S REMARK THAT SURELY SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND AROUND THE PROBLEM, DE LABOULAYE SAID THAT HE WAS SUGGESTING HIS OWN SOLUTION TO SONNENFELDT. THIS WOULD BE TO EXCLUDE FRENCH FROM DATA BASE AND FROM FORCE LEVELS. DATA SHOULD BE LIMITED TO INTEGRATED FORCES OF NEGOTIATORS. IF SOVIETS ASKED WHAT ABOUT THE FRENCH, THEY COULD BE REFERRED TO GOF. FOR HIMSELF, WERE HE A NEGOTIATING PARTICIPANT HE WOULD ALSO INSIST FOR THE WEST THAT INCREASES BY THE EAST IN FORCE LEVELS RESPOND TO ANY CHANGE BY NON-NEGOTIATOR, I.E. FRANCE, COULD BE MATCHED BY THE WEST'S NEGOTIATING POWERS.

4. DE LABOULAYE ADMITTED THAT GERMANS WOULD HAVE GREATEST PROBLEM WITH HIS SOLUTION AS THEY FEARED ANY DEVELOPMENT GIVING POSSIBLE LEVERAGE TO SOVIETS TO FOCUS ON OR CONTROL BUNDESWEHR. REGARDING TOUGHNESS OF FRENCH POSITION AND ITS EFFECT ON EAST, HE COMMENTED THAT IF EAST INTENDED TO BREAK OFF MBFR, KNOWING FULL WELL FRENCH POSITION OVER MANY YEARS, THEN THEY WERE NOT SERIOUS NEGOTIATORS IN THE FIRST PLACE. RUSH

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**TAGS:** PARM, US, FR, UR, MBFR, (STOESSEL, WALTER J JR), (DE LABOULAYE, FRANCOIS)  
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